

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain present in this application.

Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11-14 and 16 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of the interview granted on November 15, 2004. During this interview, the instant invention and the prior art utilized by the Examiner were discussed. The Examiner discussed this application with another expert and it was agreed that the orifices 8 in U.S. Patent 5,871,285 to WASSON would not be dynamic pressure generating openings or grooves. Therefore, the rejections utilizing this reference should be withdrawn. However, to clearly define the present invention, the term "dynamic pressure generating openings" would be used. Also, claim 1 would be amended to indicate that they completely penetrate through the bushing. Also, claim 1 would be amended to recite "said bushing storing the lubricant" to make it clear where the lubricant is located in this claim 1. The remaining claims have been amended to change "grooves" to --openings--.

In addition, during the interview, the withdrawn claim 8 was discussed. It was agreed that, if the added limitations from claim 1 were also incorporated into claim 8, this claim 8 should also overcome the utilized prior art and this claim should be allowed. The restriction requirement would be withdrawn, and all claims in

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the instant application would be in condition for allowance. Again, the Examiner is thanked for the courtesy of the interview.

From the August 24, 2004 Office Action, claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by WASSON, U.S. Patent 5,871,285. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over WASSON in view of MORI et al., U.S. Patent 6,250,807. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the interview, these prior art rejections should now be overcome. The present invention sets forth a hydrodynamic and hydrostatic hybrid bearing and manufacturing method which are neither suggested nor rendered obvious by the prior art utilized by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the 35 USC 102(b) and 103 rejections now be reconsidered and withdrawn. Also, it is again requested that the restriction requirement now be reconsidered and withdrawn. All claims now in the instant application should be in condition for allowance.

Favourable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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